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Summary record of the 23rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 9 April 2015, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Oh Joon (Vice-President) ..... (Republic of Korea)

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In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (*continued*) (E/2015/1/Add.1*)

Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (E/2015/9/Add.7)

1. **The President** invited the Council to elect 17 members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2016 and ending on 31 December 2018. The election had been postponed the previous day due to ongoing informal consultations. A vote had been requested on the slate of candidates from Asia-Pacific States, in accordance with rule 59 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, and would be held by secret ballot in accordance with rule 68.

2. On a blank ballot sheet, Council members would indicate up to five members from Asia-Pacific States for election to the Executive Board, excluding current members from Asia-Pacific States with terms expiring on 31 December 2016, namely, Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. While waiting for the results of the secret ballot, the Council would proceed to elect the candidates from the other regional groups by acclamation.

3. **Ms. Ataeva** (Turkmenistan) said that, as Chair of the Group of Asia-Pacific States for the month of April, Turkmenistan wished to reiterate that five candidates had been endorsed by that Group.

4. **Mr. Chu** Guang (China) said that his delegation did not understand why some countries had different opinions about the five candidate countries nominated by the Group of Asia-Pacific States. Any candidature endorsed by the Group itself should be endorsed by the Council. His delegation requested clarification from the Secretariat on that issue.

5. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council) said that requesting a vote was permissible under rule 68 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, which provided that all elections were to be held by secret ballot unless, in the absence of any objection, the Council should decide to proceed without taking a ballot on an agreed candidate or slate.

6. **Mr. Ammar** (Pakistan) said that rule 68 mentioned the secret ballot but did not explain the voting procedure to be followed in applying that rule, or any reason why the ballot sheet should contain five blank spaces rather than the names of the five candidates already endorsed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States. His delegation therefore sought clarification on the modalities for carrying out the secret ballot. Was the procedure to be arbitrary, or would precedents be followed in that regard?

7. **The President** said that an explanation would be given when the vote was conducted.

8. **Mr. Chu** Guang (China) asked which country had objected to the candidatures proposed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States.

9. **The President** said that the United States of America had requested a vote.

10. **Mr. Ammar** (Pakistan) expressed concern that once the voting procedure was under way, Council members would be prohibited from intervening under the rules of procedure, except on points of order. Under those circumstances, he wished to know whether the President would agree to explain the decision concerning the voting procedure without further delay.

11. **The President** said that delegations would have an opportunity to ask questions when he provided an explanation. He invited the Council to proceed to a vote by secret ballot for the five members from Asia-Pacific States. The United Kingdom and Estonia had agreed to act as tellers.

12. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council) said that the candidates endorsed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States were Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Samoa, Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates. Reiterating that current members of the Executive Board were not eligible for election, she read out the list of Asia-Pacific States that were eligible, both those endorsed by the Asia-Pacific Group and those that were non-endorsed.

13. **Mr. Ammar** (Pakistan) noted that any country on the list of eligible Member States could be elected even if it did not wish to sit on the Executive Board.

14. The **President** said that all Member States were eligible for election to any subsidiary body regardless

of whether they had been endorsed by a regional group.

15. **Mr. Muhumuza** (Uganda) said that the ballot sheet should list the endorsed candidates in accordance with tradition. A new precedent should not be set.

16. **Mr. Ammar** (Pakistan) asked which specific rule was being applied to the voting procedure. His delegation understood that any country had the option of being elected even if its candidature had not been endorsed by the Group. However, to be elected, it had to propose its candidature. On the basis of the voting procedure being followed by the Council and the list of eligible countries, even countries that had not proposed their candidature could be elected. His delegation was uncomfortable with that idea; it would therefore be grateful for further information in that regard.

17. **The President** said that, in such elections, countries were elected regionally by secret ballot regardless of endorsement by regional groups. When countries were endorsed by regional groups, the President usually asked Member States whether they wished to elect them by acclamation. In the absence of agreement by all Member States, the original formula of election by secret ballot was used.

18. **Ms. Khvan** (Russian Federation) said that a precedent should not be set for future elections. Since any country could be nominated for any subsidiary body, her delegation did not understand why the ballot list did not contain country names.

19. **Ms. Ataeva** (Turkmenistan) said that the candidates endorsed by the Asia-Pacific Group should be included on the ballot sheet but that all countries were entitled to add additional candidates.

20. **Mr. Chu** Guang (China) asked on what grounds one country had an objection to the candidates proposed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States and whether it was possible to select a country that had not proposed its candidature.

The meeting was suspended at 10:55 a.m. and resumed at 11:15 a.m.

21. **The President** said that during the suspension, the questions raised by delegations had been considered by the Council secretariat and the Office of Legal Affairs. It had been decided that further consultations would be held on whether the names of candidates should be listed on the ballot sheet. The elections would be postponed to the 24th meeting of the Council.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.